



General Assembly

**House Joint  
Resolution No. 16**

*January Session, 2013*

LCO No. 1725

\*01725\_\_\_\_\_GAE\*

Referred to Committee on  
GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION AND  
ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE  
CONSTITUTION TO GRANT INCREASED AUTHORITY TO THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, at the 2012 regular session of the General Assembly of  
2 the state of Connecticut, said General Assembly did approve, by at  
3 least a majority, but by less than three-fourths, of the total membership  
4 of each house, a resolution proposing an amendment to the  
5 Constitution of the State which amendment, in accordance with article  
6 sixth of the amendments to the Constitution, was published in the  
7 manner prescribed therein and continued to the present regular  
8 session of the General Assembly, and which resolution is as follows:

9 "Resolved by this Assembly:

10 That the following be proposed as an amendment to the  
11 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the

12 manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and  
13 purposes, become a part thereof:

14 Section 1. Section 7 of article sixth of the Constitution is amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 The general assembly may provide by law for voting in the choice of  
17 any officer to be elected or upon any question to be voted on at an  
18 election by qualified voters of the state who [are unable to appear at  
19 the polling place on the day of election because of absence from the  
20 city or town of which they are inhabitants or because of sickness or  
21 physical disability or because the tenets of their religion forbid secular  
22 activity] do not appear in person at a polling place on the day of an  
23 election.

24 Sec. 2. Section 4 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 [At the meetings of the electors in the respective towns held  
27 quadrennially as herein provided for the election of state officers, the  
28 presiding officers shall receive the votes and shall count and declare  
29 the same in the presence of the electors.] The votes at the election of  
30 state officers shall be counted and declared in open meeting by the  
31 presiding officers in the several towns. The presiding officers shall  
32 make and certify duplicate lists of the persons voted for, and of the  
33 number of votes for each. One list shall be delivered [within three  
34 days] to the town clerk, and [within ten days after such meeting,] the  
35 other shall be delivered under seal to the secretary of the state. The  
36 votes so delivered shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the  
37 treasurer, secretary, and comptroller, within the month of November.  
38 The vote for treasurer shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the  
39 secretary and comptroller only; the vote for secretary shall be counted,  
40 canvassed and declared by the treasurer and comptroller only; and the  
41 vote for comptroller shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the  
42 treasurer and secretary only. A fair list of the persons and number of

43 votes given for each, together with the returns of the presiding officers,  
44 shall be, by the treasurer, secretary and comptroller, made and laid  
45 before the general assembly, then next to be held, on the first day of  
46 the session thereof. In the election of governor, lieutenant-governor,  
47 secretary, treasurer, comptroller and attorney general, the person  
48 found upon the count by the treasurer, secretary and comptroller in  
49 the manner herein provided, to be made and announced before  
50 December fifteenth of the year of the election, to have received the  
51 greatest number of votes for each of such offices, respectively, shall be  
52 elected thereto; provided, if the election of any of them shall be  
53 contested as provided by statute, and if such a contest shall proceed to  
54 final judgment, the person found by the court to have received the  
55 greatest number of votes shall be elected. If two or more persons shall  
56 be found upon the count of the treasurer, secretary and comptroller to  
57 have received an equal and the greatest number of votes for any of  
58 said offices, and the election is not contested, the general assembly on  
59 the second day of its session shall hold a joint convention of both  
60 houses, at which, without debate, a ballot shall be taken to choose such  
61 officer from those persons who received such a vote; and the balloting  
62 shall continue on that or subsequent days until one of such persons is  
63 chosen by a majority vote of those present and voting. The general  
64 assembly shall have power to enact laws regulating and prescribing  
65 the order and manner of voting for such officers. The general assembly  
66 shall by law prescribe the manner in which all questions concerning  
67 the election of a governor or lieutenant-governor shall be determined.

68       Sec. 3. Section 9 of article third of the Constitution is amended to  
69 read as follows:

70       At all elections for members of the general assembly the presiding  
71 officers in the several towns shall [receive the votes of the electors,  
72 and] count and declare [them] the votes of the electors in open  
73 meeting. The presiding officers shall make and certify duplicate lists of  
74 the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each. One list  
75 shall be delivered [within three days] to the town clerk, and [within

76 ten days after such meeting,] the other shall be delivered under seal to  
77 the secretary of the state.

78       RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the  
79 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly  
80 elected at the general election to be held on November 6, 2012, and  
81 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented  
82 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 6, 2012,  
83 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the  
84 amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed  
85 amendment to be used on ballots at such election shall be "Shall the  
86 Constitution of the State be amended to remove restrictions concerning  
87 absentee ballots and to permit a person to vote without appearing at a  
88 polling place on the day of an election?"

89       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS ASSEMBLY: That  
90 the said amendment so proposed is approved and that it be presented  
91 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 4, 2014.